



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS BRING IMPROVED EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT TO ATKINSON

Ainsworth, Neb., April 8, 2005—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded an \$11,000 grant to the City of Atkinson. Monies will be leveraged with \$20,500 from the City to purchase a new emergency/police vehicle and make upgrades to emergency radios.

“The Atkinson Police Department, with the leadership of Chief Tim Larby, has improved the quality of the police department,” stated Honorable Sharon Wenner, mayor for City of Atkinson. “Receiving the USDA Rural Development grant is an example of Tim's ability to see the needs of the department with the resources available. The grant we received from USDA Rural Development is what makes this possible.”

Monies will purchase a 2004 Dodge 1500 quad cab, 4 wheel drive pickup, complete with emergency lighting that will be well suited for the area's climate and topography. Pickup will allow a wider array of assistance in weather related accidents and rural areas and provide greater convenience for animal control. Vintage 1960 low band radio will be replaced with a new dual band radio allowing for improved communications with County police. More than 1,200 rural residents of the City and those in a 2 mile radius around city limit will benefit from the emergency service improvements.

Rural Development Manager Mary Gambill of USDA Rural Development stated, “USDA is pleased to help rural communities, such as Atkinson, to have the updated and reliable equipment needed to provide emergency services to the residents it serves.”

New emergency/police vehicle will replace City of Atkinson's 1992 Crown Victoria, with 100,000 plus miles that experiences wire malfunctions that are cost prohibitive to repair.

USDA funds were awarded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant program. Contact Mary Gambill, mary.gambill@ne.usda.gov, 731 E. 4th Ainsworth, Neb. 69210 or phone (308) 387-2242, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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